

CareAmerica

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL 96-45

Via Facsimile

April 28, 1997

Commissioner James H. Quello
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. St. NW Room 802
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED
MAY 6 1997
MAY 6 10 27 AM '97
JAMES H. QUULLO

SUNSHINE PERIOD

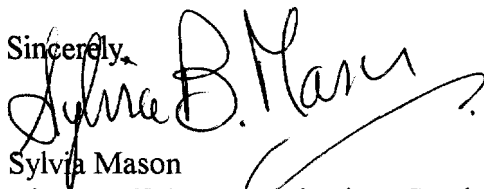
Dear Commissioner Quello:

We at CareAmerica Health Plans are very concerned about your proposal to increase the business line Subscriber Line Charge and to impose a new charge, reportedly called a FERRO, of at least \$4.50 per line per month to support new telecommunications capabilities at schools, libraries and rural health care facilities. As a health plan with more than 263,000 group and Medicare members, we utilize approximately 800 phone lines at our company, 20 % of which are toll-free and provide free and direct access to our members should they need assistance with any aspect of their coverage or medical services. A fee of \$4.50 per line per month would add a charge of more than \$43,000 a year to our company's telephone costs, of which more than \$10,000 would be added to our current costs of providing toll-free service to these customers.

I urge you not to adopt the Subscriber Line Charge increase, which would impose an expensive, additional tax on all businesses and would impact many organizations' abilities to provide toll-free customer service and access. We believe that taxes to support telecommunications for schools, libraries, rural healthcare providers or others should be supported by all sectors, not just businesses who rely heavily on telecommunications.

It is time for the Commission to reform its rules governing access charges. All telecommunications consumers -- businesses as well as residential -- deserve protection from excessive monopoly prices. The Administration's social policy agenda should be addressed in other ways that do not penalize businesses which already are paying excessive rates to meet their telecommunications needs.

Sincerely,



Sylvia Mason
Director, Telecommunications Services
CareAmerica Health Plans

cc: Robert White, President
Bob Steiger, CIO

James Quello, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commissioner
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 802
Washington, D.C. 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RECEIVED

MAY 6 10 36 AM '97

JAMES M. QUAY

MAY 6 1997

SUNSHINE PERIOD

Dear Commissioner Quello:

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

I am writing regarding the upcoming vote on implementing the Telecommunications Act of 1996 for schools and libraries. It is imperative that the originally recommended "e-rate" be maintained. It is no secret that the expense of education is becoming a bigger burden for schools all over the country. The need to keep up with ever increasing technology only increases that burden. You can help children all over the country prepare for the future by supporting telecommunication discounts for schools. This also includes "e-rate" discounts on inside connections to the classrooms. Children of all economic backgrounds deserve the same access to education in technology. Your support would benefit everyone. I urge you to support the Joint Boards discount plan. Thank You.

Sincerely,

Marie Divozzo
L'Anse Creuse Public Schools
Legislative Action Committee

96-45

RECEIVED

May 1, 1997

James Quello, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 802
Washington, D.C. 20054

MAY 6 10 33 AM '97

JAMES W. QUAY

SUNSHINE PERIOD

Dear Commissioner Quello:

I write in support of meaningful discounts on telecommunications services for schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The Telecommunications Act - through its Universal Service Fund provisions - mandates the development of special discount rates for all schools and libraries so that they can secure services at affordable prices.

There is no doubt that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all our nation's people. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-learners can connect with the technology they would need to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create in formed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century. As of now our school system is unable to afford Internet capabilities to extend access to each classroom. Our local telephone company has been reluctant to give our schools reduced rates. We would like for our students to have the same opportunities that are afforded to students in more affluent areas. Without the passage of the Telecommunications Act, there is very little hope that we will ever be able to provide this opportunity.

Last November, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to the schools and libraries. These recommendations would give our learning institutions significant discounts on all services that are commercially available, with deeper discounts for those schools and libraries least able to pay and more expensive to service. All schools would get discounts on connections to classrooms and Internet connectivity, both of which are essential to providing the most advanced learning opportunities to the greatest number of students.

I urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Sincerely,

Lisa Cook
423 Hummingbird Lane
McRae, Georgia 31055

Community Consolidated School District 15

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL



Joseph M. Kiszka Educational Service Center
580 North First Bank Drive
Palatine, Illinois 60067-8108
(847) 934-2770

John G. Conyers, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

April 7, 1997

The Honorable James Quello
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW Room 802
Washington DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Quello:

On behalf of the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 15, our superintendent, teachers, and students, I would like to thank you for your dedication and commitment to ensure that all schools have affordable access to the Internet.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that all schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide students distance-learning opportunities. Certainly, the \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all schools and bring services directly to the classroom. Today's students are the work force of tomorrow—that is why this plan and your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is so vital.

Deep discounts for telecommunications services are needed this year. With these savings, School District 15 will be able to purchase additional computers, software, and printers.

We urge the FCC to support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries. I know the students, parents, and teachers of School District 15 are very appreciative for your efforts to support this plan.

Sincerely,

Nancy B. Murtaugh
President
Board of Education

Jane Addams • Central Road
Kimball Hill • Hunting Ridge • Thomas Jefferson
Marion Jordan • Lake Louise • Lincoln
Stuart R. Paddock • Pleasant Hill • Gray M. Sanborn
Virginia Lake • Frank C. Whiteley • Willow Bend
Plum Grove Junior High • Carl Sandburg Junior High
Walter R. Sundling Junior High • Winston Campus

MAY 6

SUNSHINE PERIOD

APR 15 10 01 AM '97
JAMES J. QUELLO
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION



School District of Superior

Board of Education Building

3025 Tower Avenue
Superior, Wisconsin 54880
(715) 394-8700
FAX (715) 394-8708

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

April 9, 1997

The Honorable James Quello, Commissioner
202-418-2802
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Quello:

As superintendent of the School District of Superior, I would like to thank you for your efforts to ensure that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Because of our location and the large number of families that qualify for free and reduced lunch programs, the Telecommunications Act is critical to our district. Without this support, children in our district will be severely limited of access to these resources. As with other public schools, we are very limited in funding for telecommunications equipment and personnel to support these systems.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support of the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Benjamin J. Kanninen, Superintendent

cc: Mike Willis, Director of Management Information Systems

May 6 1997

SUNSHINE PERIOD

APR 15 10 03 AM '97

RECEIVED

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

SUNSHINE PERIOD

Board of Directors

Ned Mervos, President
Raymond M. Butko
John A. Connolly
John J. Donis
David R. Fialkovich
Pat J. Natale
Michael J. Olack
Theresa B. Wright

**West Mifflin Area
School District**



May 5, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

On May 8, 1997, when you vote on the FCC Federal State Joint Board's recommendation to provide significant discounts for all telecommunications services, including connections within each classroom, you will have the opportunity to guarantee that all students have an equal opportunity to benefit from our nation's technological advancements. This will prove to be a major step in the efforts to prepare students for their future in which 60% of the jobs will require computer skills.

As a member of the West Mifflin Area School District's Board of Directors, I can assure you that our financial resources are being stretched to the limit. We face a constant struggle to meet the ever increasing demands being placed on our school district without sufficient funding to support our efforts. The proposed discounts will be a vital link in our efforts to expand the use of technology in our classrooms.

I encourage you to support the plan to provide discounts to schools for all telecommunications services including internal connections. This action will open the door of opportunity for every student in our country and help to prepare our workforce of the future.

Sincerely,

Ned Mervos, President
West Mifflin Area School District
Board of School Directors

NM/es

cc: Board of School Directors
Mr. Donald U. Wukich

96-45

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL
SUNSHINE PERIOD

May 5, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

TO: FCC Commissioner Jim Quello
FCC Commissioner Rachelle Chong
FCC Commissioner Susan Ness

FROM: William A. Bell
Sr. Vice President/General Counsel, Florida Hospital Association

SUBJ: May 7 Vote on Telecommunications Universal Service Policy

The Florida Hospital Association, on behalf of its twenty-seven rural hospital members, urges your support of two issues which the FCC will vote on May 7 as part of the implementation of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

The Universal Service Policy should cover distance charges. Rural health care providers should have access to telecommunications services at about the same overall cost as that faced by urban health care providers. Often rural providers pay much more because of the great distances involved between them and urban connection sites. Distance charges are largely responsible for the considerable differences in telecommunications costs for rural and urban providers. The FCC should either subsidize distance charges or eliminate them in order for benefits of the Telecommunications Act for rural health care providers to be meaningful.

The Universal Service Policy should also support toll-free connections to the Internet. The Internet is a valuable tool for the provision of many rural health care providers, particularly in the area of public health. However, people in rural areas often must pay toll charges to reach the Internet Service Provider, while providers in urban areas do not. The FCC should support helping rural health care providers pay toll charges if they cannot connect to the Internet via a local call.

Thank you for your consideration of these issues.

WAB:lb

96-45

SUNSHINE PERIOD*Interlochen Center for the Arts*DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL
 **Interlochen**
World Center for Arts Education

April 25, 1997

The Honorable James Quello
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
Room 802
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 6 1997

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Quello:

Thank you for helping ensure that all schools and libraries have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

We are excited that the Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have an opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion annually will address the needs of all our schools, and the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts and Internet Service Provider costs is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Over 70% of our students receive financial assistance to attend our school. They need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely,

Richard F. Odell

Richard F. Odell
President

RFO/lm

96-45

MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE**

1065 East Avenue - Madison, Georgia 30650

Phone 706-342-0752

Fax 706-342-0505

MEMBERS OF BOARD
Ronnie Stapp, Chairman
Mark Argo
Mrs. Dorothy Cabaniss
Clifton Hanes
Mrs. Marie B. Martin

Patricia W. Stokes, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Stanley W. DeJarnett, Ph.D.
Director,
Curriculum & Instruction

SUNSHINE PERIOD

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

The Honorable James Quello, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Quello:

As superintendent of the Morgan County Schools in Madison, Georgia, I am sincerely appreciative of your efforts to see that school districts and educational groups in our country can afford access to the Internet. We are considered leaders in the use of technology in the state of Georgia, and because of our rural location, this is an urgent issue. We do not have wide area access without long distance charges, and that can make use prohibitive.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Board decision would make it possible for all school districts to have an opportunity to connect our students in the classroom to the Internet. The educational opportunities of such a move are astounding. This move is essential to bring our schools to the high level of expectations placed on them by the public in a technology-laden work world.

We are in the process of installing a wide-area network among all our schools and the local library. These discounts would make educational use of the Internet available directly to our classrooms and to the general public who use our library in an affordable manner.

Without serious discounts, we will have to limit use of this incredible resource. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Patricia W. Stokes
Superintendent

RECEIVED
MAY 6 1997



96-45

Administrative Offices

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

SUNSHINE PERIOD

RECEIVED

April 24, 1997

MAY 6 1997

The Honorable James Quello, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner:

As the superintendent of Orangeburg Consolidated School District Five, I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and will provide distance-learning opportunities at a discounted rate. The school portion, \$ 2.25 billion a year, will ensure that the needs of our students, and schools are met.

Our district is currently one of the eight pilot sites funded through the South Carolina Two-Way Video Distance Learning Project. This plan would reduce the cost of continuing this initiative and would also enable us to expand these services and opportunities through the savings projected.

This plan will enable us to bring those services directly to the classroom and to our students. Those discounts on inside connections, Internet access, installation and maintenance are essential as we plan for the upcoming fiscal budget. Your recommendation is an important part of this process.

Our school district needs these discounts for telecommunications services this year. I ask the FCC to support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service.

Sincerely,

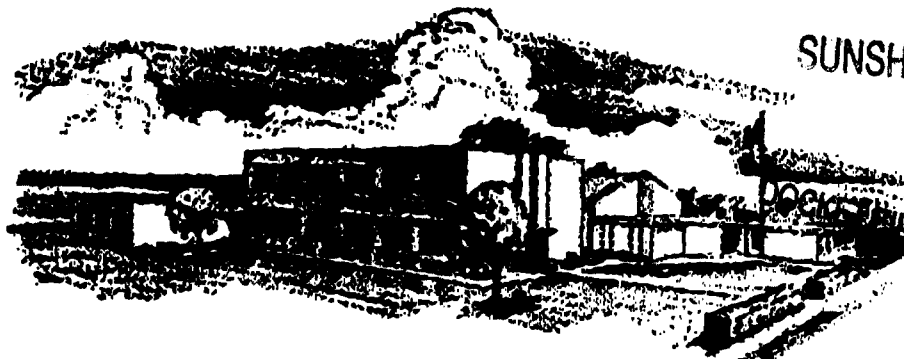
A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Walter L. Tobin'.

Walter L. Tobin
Superintendent

96-45

SUNSHINE PERIOD

BOARD OF EDUCATION
 James E. Vondel, President
 Bruce Olson, Vice President
 James W. Howard, Director
 Gaylon Steler, Director
 Gregory E. Westlund, Director
 Susan Davis, Business Manager



Mark M. Lindahl, H. S. Pr

Mark M. Lindahl, Elem. Pr

COPY ORIGINAL

Cando Public School

April 25, 1997

MAY 6 1997

The Honorable James Quello
 Commissioner

Federal Communications Commission
 1919 M. Street, NW Room 832
 Washington, DC 20554

Southern School District No. 8

418 2nd Avenue

P.O. Box 489

Cando, North Dakota 58324-0489

Lewis A. Getz, Superintendent

701-968-4416

Fax: 701-968-4418

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commission Quello:

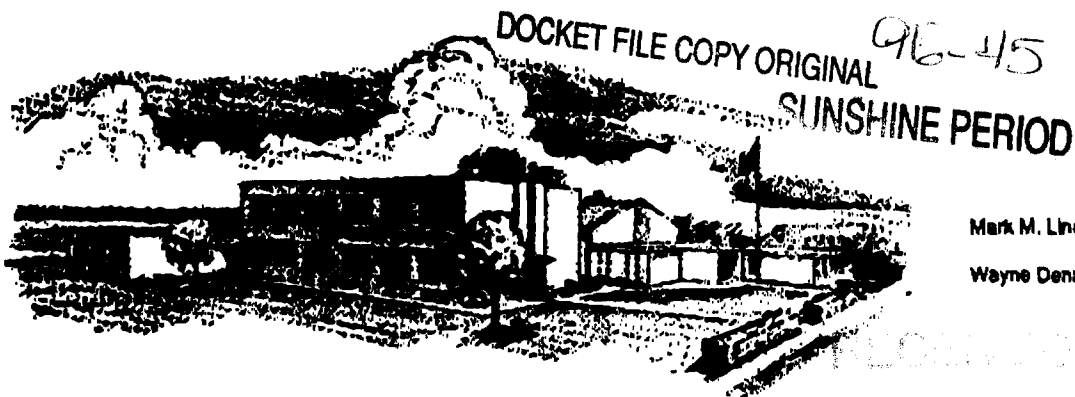
I am a school secretary from the Cando Public School District #8, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The 2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of Internet classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

In Cando, we are in the process of wiring our school for internet access. As you know, this is a big expenditure for a district with 345 students K-12. The possibilities I see for our students with Internet access is endless, but costly. Telecommunication providers should not capitalize on our schools or our children. Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications service this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely

Nicole Miller
 School Secretary
 Cando Public School



DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL 96-45
SUNSHINE PERIOD

BOARD OF EDUCATION
James E. Vondal, President
Bruce Olson, Vice President
James W. Howard, Director
Gaylon Sieler, Director
Gregory E. Westlund, Director
Susan Davis, Business Manager

Mark M. Lindahl, H. S. Principal
Wayne Densault, Elem. Principal

Cando Public School April 25, 1997 MAY 6 1997

The Honorable James Quello
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, NW Room 832
Washington, DC 20554

Southern School District No. 8
418 2nd Avenue
P.O. Box 489
Cando, North Dakota 58324-0489
Lewis A. Getz, Superintendent
701-968-4418
Fax: 701-968-4418

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commission Quello:

I am a business manager from the Cando Public School District #8, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The 2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of Internet classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

In Cando, we are in the process of wiring our school for internet access. As you know, this is a big expenditure for a district with 345 students K-12. The possibilities I see for our students with Internet access is endless, but costly. Telecommunication providers should not capitalize on our schools or our children. Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications service this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely

Susan Davis
Business Manager
Cando Public School

"Home of the Cubs"

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL
Vacaville Unified School District

751 School Street • Vacaville, California 95688-3987

(707) 449-9531

SUNSHINE PERIOD

RECEIVED

OFFICE OF
SCHOOL
BUSINESS

96-45

Board of Education

Larry J. Mazzuca
President

Katherine Brannon
Vice President

Sarah E. Chapman
Clerk

Kathleen M. Collier

Nicholas D. Esplin

Bill Hausler

Patricia M. (Bradani) Mylott

Richard E. Jackson
Superintendent &
Board Secretary

RECEIVED

MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

April 18, 1997

Ms. Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Ms. Ness:

I am writing to you in regard to the federal "E-RATE" Telecommunications Discount Program. I am a locally elected School Board Member from the Vacaville Unified School District and I would like to express my strong support for this Program and the proposed regulations governing its implementation.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996, and the Federal-State Joint Board Discount Plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have access to the Internet and the ability to provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of schools across the Country and, more importantly, the plan will bring telecommunications services directly to the classrooms where they can have the greatest impact on students. It is important to remember that each element of this plan is vital to the overall success of the Discount Program. Therefore, the inclusion of discounts for internal classroom connections should not be eliminated, nor should the size of the Universal Service Fund be reduced. As I am sure you are aware, this program is essential for preparing our students to enter the workforce of tomorrow.

The E-Rate Telecommunications Discount Program is desperately overdue and our students need these discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge you and the other FCC Commissioners to fully support the recommendations of the Joint Board and approve the proposed final regulations regarding the Discount Plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Katherine Brannon

Katherine Brannon, Vice President
Board of Education
Vacaville Unified School District

KB:lm



WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

Edward T. Schafer
Governor of North Dakota
Chairman

Tony Knowles
Governor of Alaska
Vice Chairman

James M. Souby
Executive Director

Headquarters:

600 17th Street
Suite 1705 South Tower
Denver, Colorado 80202-5452

(303) 623-9378
Fax (303) 534-7309

Washington, D.C. Office:

400 N. Capitol Street, N.W.
Suite 388
Washington, D.C. 20001
(202) 624-5402
Fax (202) 624-7707

www.westgov.org

April 29, 1997

Commissioner Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Ness:

Re: Universal Service Rules; Healthcare providers and section
254(h)(1)(A) of the 1996 Act

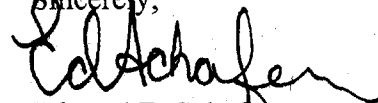
As you know, the Western Governors' Association (WGA) has actively participated in the FCC's process to implement the healthcare provisions in the 1996 Telecommunications Act. We write once more to urge you to do all you can to make telemedicine and other healthcare uses of the telecommunications network as cost-effective and as workable as possible.

Specifically, with your rules due to be published shortly, the WGA again asks you to eliminate the user costs associated with mileage-based charges. In the West and in many other parts of the country, where traditional charges penalize those who live and work far outside urban areas, telemedicine providers continue to struggle to pay charges with high mileage components. This is precisely the reason Congress called for comparability between urban and rural areas in the 1996 Act. In order to obviate the effects of distance, rural charges for certain health care providers should be "reasonably comparable" to charges for similar services in urban areas. Without this comparability, the benefits promised in this part of the Act will never be realized.

Related to the mileage charge issue, I understand the Commission continues to debate the wisdom of its order directing toll-free Internet access for health care providers who lack local Internet service. You should clearly apply the comparability standard here as well. At this point Internet service is the standard vehicle for a great deal of public service communications, including healthcare. Full use of this application will be delayed in rural areas unless it is reasonably priced. Please take the opportunity to make Internet access affordable for rural health care providers.

Thank you again for considering the needs of the West in your deliberations.

Sincerely,


Edward T. Schafer
WGA Chairman
Governor of North Dakota

RECEIVED

SUNSHINE PERIOD

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

VIA FAX

MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary



Vacaville Unified School District

751 School Street • Vacaville, California 95688-3987

(707) 446-7480

RECEIVED

OFFICE OF
COMMUNICATIONS

SUNSHINE PERIOD

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Board of Education

Larry R. Mazzuca
President

Katherine Brannon
Vice President

Sarah E. Chapman
Clerk

Kathleen M. Collier

Nicholas D. Esplin

Bill Hausler

Patricia M. (Bradani) Mylott

Richard E. Jackson
Superintendent &
Board Secretary

April 18, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Ms. Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Ms. Ness:

I am writing to you in regard to the federal "E-RATE" Telecommunications Discount Program. I am a locally elected School Board Member from the Vacaville Unified School District and I would like to express my strong support for this Program and the proposed regulations governing its implementation.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996, and the Federal-State Joint Board Discount Plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have access to the Internet and the ability to provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of schools across the Country and, more importantly, the plan will bring telecommunications services directly to the classrooms where they can have the greatest impact on students. It is important to remember that each element of this plan is vital to the overall success of the Discount Program. Therefore, the inclusion of discounts for internal classroom connections should not be eliminated, nor should the size of the Universal Service Fund be reduced. As I am sure you are aware, this program is essential for preparing our students to enter the workforce of tomorrow.

The E-Rate Telecommunications Discount Program is desperately overdue and our students need these discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge you and the other FCC Commissioners to fully support the recommendations of the Joint Board and approve the proposed final regulations regarding the Discount Plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Esplin
Board of Education
Vacaville Unified School District

NE:lm

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RECEIVED

OFFICE OF
COMMUNICATIONS
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION

SUNSHINE PERIOD

MAY 5 2 33 PM '97

MERCY HIGH SCHOOL

1300 E. Northern Parkway
Baltimore, MD 21239-1998
410-433-8880
FAX: 410-323-8816



April 28, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Room 832
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am Joyce Rizzi, Teacher, Mercy High School, Baltimore, Maryland, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunication Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools and the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital, as is your inclusion of Internet Service Provider costs. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you,

Joyce Rizzi

Joyce Rizzi

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RECEIVED

OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SECRETARY

MAY 5 2 30 PM '97

SUNSHINE PERIOD

MERCY HIGH SCHOOL

1300 E. Northern Parkway
Baltimore, MD 21239-1998

410-433-8880
FAX: 410-323-8816



April 28, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Room 832
Washington, DC 20554

MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am Krista Andersen, Teacher, Mercy High School, Baltimore, Maryland, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunication Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools and the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital, as is your inclusion of Internet Service Provider costs. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you,

Krista Andersen

Krista Andersen

RECEIVED
DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

SUNSHINE PERIOD

OFFICE OF
SUSAN NESS
MAY 3 2 39 PM '97
IDABEL MIDDLE SCHOOL

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

100 N. E. AVE. D
IDABEL, OKLAHOMA

(405) 286-6558

April 28, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

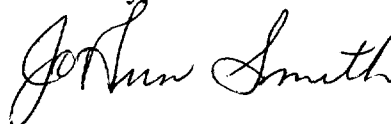
Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am the librarian at Idabel Middle School, and I would like to thank you for your help in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access information via the Information Superhighway. Idabel is a small, poor, isolated community, miles away from any major university. We are hoping to be able to access the Internet the coming school year of 1997-98 if the plan that guarantees poor schools a discount for telecommunication services is passed. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. We especially need this to help access information for our science fair and prepare the students for the workforce of tomorrow.

Due to a real financial crises in our school, our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I know from talking to our school treasurer that most schools in Oklahoma are in the same boat. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jo Ann Smith, Librarian

MERCY HIGH SCHOOL

1300 E. Northern Parkway
Baltimore, MD 21239-1998
410-433-8880
FAX: 410-323-8816



RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN N. NESS

MAY 5 2 43 PM '97

SUNSHINE PERIOD

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

April 28, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Room 832
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am Kim Sheridan, Teacher, Mercy High School, Baltimore, Maryland, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunication Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools and the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital, as is your inclusion of Internet Service Provider costs. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you,

Kim Sheridan

Kim Sheridan

RECEIVED

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL OFFICE OF
COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

SUNSHINE PERIOD

MAY 5 2 30 11 '97

MERCY HIGH SCHOOL

1300 E. Northern Parkway
Baltimore, MD 21239-1998
410-433-8880
FAX: 410-323-8816



April 28, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Room 832
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

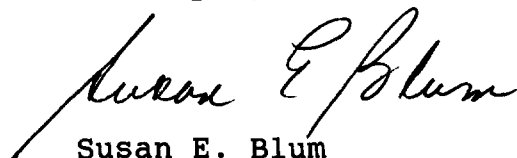
Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am Susan E. Blum, Teacher, Mathematics Dept., Mercy High School, Baltimore, Maryland, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunication Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools and the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital, as is your inclusion of Internet Service Provider costs. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you,


Susan E. Blum

RECEIVED

MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

RECEIVED

OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

SUNSHINE PERIOD

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL MAY 2 11 '97

RECEIVED

MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

MERCY HIGH SCHOOL

1300 E. Northern Parkway
Baltimore, MD 21239-1998
410-433-8880
FAX: 410-323-8816



April 28, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Room 832
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am Erica Barden, Teacher, Mercy High School, Baltimore, Maryland, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunication Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools and the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital, as is your inclusion of Internet Service Provider costs. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you,

Erica Barden

MERCY HIGH SCHOOL

1300 E. Northern Parkway
Baltimore, MD 21239-1998
410-433-8880
FAX: 410-323-8816



DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUBS
May 5 2 48 PM '97

SUNSHINE PERIOD

RECEIVED

MAY 6 1997

April 28, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Room 832
Washington, DC 20554

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am Tricia Potts, Teacher, Mercy High School, Baltimore, Maryland, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunication Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools and the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital, as is your inclusion of Internet Service Provider costs. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you,

Tricia Potts

**MERCY
HIGH SCHOOL**

1300 E. Northern Parkway
Baltimore, MD 21239-1998
410-433-8880
FAX: 410-323-8816



DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

SUNSHINE PERIOD

MAY 5 2 47 PM '97

RECEIVED

MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

April 28, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Room 832
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am Terri Pohl, Technology Coordinator, Mercy High School, Baltimore, Maryland, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

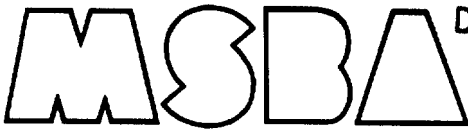
The Telecommunication Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools and the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital, as is your inclusion of Internet Service Provider costs. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you,

Terri Pohl

Terri Pohl



DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RECEIVED

SUNSHINE PERIOD

OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS
MAY 5 5 43 PM '97
MAINE SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

May 1, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY - 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

PRESIDENT
James A. Banks, Sr.
Portland

1ST VICE PRESIDENT
Margaret R. Rotundo
Lewiston

2ND VICE PRESIDENT
Rhonda F. Bowden
SAD #56 (Searsport)

PAST PRESIDENT
Terry D. McCabe
Bremen

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Dale A. Douglass

MAINE COUNCIL OF
SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEYS

Donald A. Kopp, Esq.
Chair

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness,

I am President of the Maine School Boards Association, and represent over 1800 school board members in Maine. I want to thank you for your consideration in ensuring that all schools have affordable access to the Internet and are provided with opportunities for distance-learning.

In a rural state like Maine these technological opportunities provide an important link towards educational equity. The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest or the most rural schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide for distance-learning opportunities. The approval of this Act will address the needs of all our schools, and more importantly, the plan will ensure direct services to the classrooms where students learn. The inclusion of the internal classroom connections discounts is imperative to provide equitable educational opportunities for students, regardless of where their family resides.

This plan is essential for preparing our students for their future, and I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely,

James A. Banks, Sr.
James A. Banks, Sr.
President

CC: Dale A. Douglass, Executive Director
MSBA Board of Directors

F:\Data\F



Member of THE MAINE LEADERSHIP CONSORTIUM

49 COMMUNITY DRIVE • AUGUSTA, MAINE 04330-9405 • 207-622-3473

Plain Local Schools

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

901 44th Street, N.W., Canton, Ohio 44709 Phone (330) 492-3500

RECEIVED

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

SUNSHINE PERIOD

MAY 5 2 53 PM '97

May 1, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 6 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N. W.
Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20554

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am a school superintendent from the Plain Local School District, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

Our district has received recognition as an Ohio Prototype for Technology, but we still need assistance in bringing the benefits of connectivity to all of our students and staff. On-line hook-ups and fees need to be reduced to ensure our public students receive equitable and adequate access to global information.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



William R. Mease
Superintendent
Plain Local Schools